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EASTERN VIRGINIA LEADS IN POTATOES

Industry That Brings Much Money to the State and Can Bring More.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Washington, July 7.—Realizing that great profits might be derived from the growing and shipping of Irish potatoes in the South—far greater than in the case now, although it is true that in some sections the industry has already assumed large proportions—L. C. Corbett, horticulturist in the bureau of plant industry in the Department of Agriculture, was asked for information

on this subject. He was requested to state with particularity what might be accomplished in the South in addition to what has already been done.

The growing of Irish potatoes as a truck crop in the South, Mr. Corbett said, "has assumed large proportions. Thousands of acres are annually planted to early varieties of potatoes which are harvested as soon as they have reached suitable size. This industry extends along the Atlantic seaboard from the southernmost terminals of railway transportation to the vicinity of the great centres of consumption, Florida producing a large annual crop of early potatoes, followed by Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey. In turn, the great early potato producing sections of Florida are centred around Hastings; in Georgia the sections are largely confined to the vicinity of Savannah; in South Carolina a large acreage is cultivated in the trucking region about Charleston; in North Carolina a very extensive crop is planted in the vicinity of Wilmington; while Norfolk probably outclasses all other regions along the Atlantic coast so far as acreage and yield are concerned. This vicinity is one of the oldest and largest potato-producing sections of North America.

Northern Grown Seed.

"In growing early potatoes, more than any other single crop, the sources from which the seed is obtained influence the resulting crop. The practice which is almost universally followed is to plant tubers of early varieties, which have been grown for several seasons at the North. The demand by truck farmers for Northern-grown seed has developed a very considerable industry in some of the potato-producing regions, notably Maine, Michigan and Wisconsin. Early varieties which are especially adapted to truck work at the South are in these Northern regions, planted extensively for the purpose of producing seed to be used in the South.

Value of Southern Soils.

"Within recent years there has been a marked increase in the use of second crop potatoes for seed throughout the Southern potato-growing sections. This crop is frequently grown in the same land from which the first crop of potatoes was harvested. A novel practice for securing quick growth from second crop seed has been developed by a successful potato grower in Texas. He has developed an idea which is closely akin to the practices of the potato growers of the Channel Islands. The method consists in storing the tubers of the second crop in a tight building, which, by the use of artificial heat, can be kept frost-proof. At harvest time the tubers are placed in slatted crates and the temperature of the storage house held as low as practicable without freezing until four or six weeks before planting time, when the temperature is raised to 60 or 70 degrees. This temperature is maintained until the eyes of the potatoes show activity."

Mr. Corbett also discusses in an interesting way the questions of fertilizing, harvesting, digging, packing, grading and marketing. With special reference to the last subject, it says: "The perishable nature of the immature potato renders it necessary to place it upon the market in such quantities only as will admit of immediate consumption. Producers in regions where the growing of early potatoes has been extensively developed will appreciate this, and have provided for this condition by organizing shippers' associations, through which the crop is graded, often side-marked and distributed chiefly in car-load lots. The great advantage of such a system of selling is that it enables the brokers in a small city or town to buy direct from the producer, instead of through another city broker."

It enables the consumer to obtain fresh products, as they are shipped direct from the point of production to the point of consumption. The plan also carries other benefits which are of great value to all concerned."

Great Is Old Virginia.

On this same line Commissioner of Agriculture G. W. Kolmer in his latest publication says: "Virginia is the birthplace of trucking in America. Her kind soil and salubrious climate, and her geographical location are not equaled by any other State. These trucking lands are sure to increase in value very largely for years to come."

"The Norfolk truckers were the first to organize and manage their business collectively. The purchase of their fertilizers, empty packages, freight rates, commissions, and careful handling of their freight, show the great power that organization secures to the farmers. The Norfolk truckers shipped this year 4,555,200 packages of trucks. Three farmers grew this year 75,000 barrels of potatoes."

"The truckers on that garden spot, the Eastern Shore, have shown as much business enterprise in their splendid organization, where the great success in their trucking has increased their lands from \$25 to more than \$100 per acre in average value. This fine organization shipped this year from May 1 to November 15, 1910, 1,050,000 barrels white potatoes, 500,000 barrels sweet potatoes, 63,000 barrels and crates onions, 55,000 crates strawberries, 11,000 crates cabbages, and 8,500 packages peas, turnips and other vegetables. The splendid success these truck farmers have achieved, has been a valuable object lesson to all the farmers of the State as to the value of organization. The fruit growers have caught the spirit, and so have the peanut growers and the tobacco growers. May this movement continue to grow until every farmer in the State enjoys the protection and benefits that organization and co-operation secure."

HOG AND HOMINY SOUTH'S GOODHOLD

Why Virginia Farmers Should Raise More Hogs—The Good Reasons Therefor.

BY FRANK S. WOODSON,

Industrial Editor.

"Some months ago the Washington correspondent of The Times-Dispatch gathered largely in these columns from D. T. Gray, an expert on animal industry in the Department of Agriculture, and perhaps the readers of the paper remember what Mr. Gray had to say on the subject of 'hog and hominy' in the South. But it will not hurt to repeat some of Mr. Gray's talk. He said: 'The Southern people are large meat consumers, but small meat producers. In fact, the South consumes more meat per capita than any other section of the country, but a large proportion of this meat is shipped into the South from other sections of the country.' 'I have preached a good many sermons myself in this section of The Times-Dispatch and elsewhere on the text that is outlined in the above

remarks, and I think it is a good time

to preach another. To give an instance of what I mean, continued Mr. Gray in his talk with the man of news, 'during the year 1907 there were but 15,151 home-raised animals slaughtered in the city of Birmingham, Ala. (this includes cattle, veal, hogs, sheep and kids), while there were 36,957 live Western animals brought into the city and slaughtered. In addition to these Western live animals, there were 5,314,170 pounds of fresh meat shipped in and sold, as well as thousands of pounds of Western cured meat. This means that more than \$1,000,000 go out of the city of Birmingham annually each year into distant States for meats and this money could all be kept at home if the Southern farmer would but produce the meat.

"Pork can be made as cheaply, and perhaps more cheaply, in the South than in any other section of the country. And there are many reasons why our Southern farmers should introduce this line of animal production into the farming system. One of these reasons is mentioned above—the money spent for meat by the Southern people would be kept at home. Another is the influence it would probably have on the price of cotton. It will never be possible for the South to control the price of cotton until the Southern farmer places himself in such a position that he can hold the crop after it is produced. So long as all the farmers are required to sell the entire crop of cotton each fall, so long will its price be an unreliable and unstable one. The only way by which a farmer can place himself in a position where he will not have to sell his cotton each fall is to produce something in addition to cotton; and unquestionably one of the best supplements to the cotton crop would be the raising of hogs. The hog business can be so managed that the owner can have money coming in from it at least twice a year, which would enable him to hold his cotton as long as he pleases."

Just cut out Birmingham and make it Richmond, or Norfolk, or Petersburg, and make 'cotton' read tobacco and peanuts and truck and other Virginia crops of the money-bringing kind, and Mr. Gray's argument will apply just as well to Virginia as to Alabama or any other part of the South, as will his other remarks on the same connection. Hear him. He says:

"The hog is especially adapted to the farmer with small capital, as but a small amount of money is required with which to begin the business, and after it is started, the sow is a rapid producer. Money is turned rapidly. With \$125 invested in one boar and five to eight sows it is easily possible to have for sale from 5,000 to 8,000 pounds of pork (live weight) in a year. In other words, the yearly sales should be from two to four times the amount of the investment."

"It is sometimes claimed that hogs cannot be raised and finished in the South since corn has advanced in price. The farmer is often told that he can buy his pork cheaper than he can make it. While pork has not advanced as rapidly in price as corn, still it must be remembered that the cheapest side meat costs the consumer from 14 to 15 cents a pound, while the shoulders and hams cost from 18 to 22 cents a pound. It is no doubt true that the Southern farmer who imitates his Northern brother in his pork-making operations can buy the meat cheaper than he can make it. But if he takes his own conditions into intelligent consideration, he can produce pork cheaper than it is possible to produce it in any other section. But he cannot compete with those portions of the country where corn is comparatively cheap, if he feeds corn alone. The Southern farmer must economize in the use of this feed on account of its high price. The South, in fact, feeds too much corn, as a sole feed to hogs; there are cheap feeds which should be used along with corn."

In conclusion, Mr. Gray said: 'Hogs can be raised at a profit in the South, and Southern farmers should raise more of them.'

"While pork can sometimes be made at a profit when corn is supplemented with nothing but a concentrated feed, still it is not wise to use supplements alone."

Hogs can be produced cheaper when pastured and used along with the grain than when grain alone is used alone. By means of pasture crops, pork can be made cheaper in the South than it is possible to make it in the corn belt."

Every Virginia farmer should raise all of the meat required on his plantation and have some to sell. Immense fortunes have been made by Western folks in raising hogs to sell to Southern farmers, and every Virginia city sends thousands of dollars every year to the West for meat. Why should not this money be kept at home? Virginia farms should furnish Virginia cities and towns with all of the meat, especially hog meat, which they consume. When a Virginia farmer wakes up to this idea and begins to supply the home demand they will be the richer and the happier.

The 'hog and hominy' doctrine, which means raise everything to eat you can

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